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LETTER DATED 11 FEBRUARY 1991 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF JORDAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I am transmitting to you herewith the text of the interview given by His Majesty King Hussein of Jordan to Mr. David Brinkley, which was broadcast by the United States television network ABC on Sunday, 10 February 1991.

I should be grateful if you would kindly have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Abdullah SALAH
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

READEX FICHE

Annex

[Original: English]

Text of the Interview given by His Majesty King Hussein of Jordan on "This Week with David Brinkley" Program, on Sunday, 10 February 1991

Mr. Brinkley: Now, standing by to talk to us from Amman, Jordan is King Hussein , who just this week announced his support for Iraq and its war alongside the United States and other Western countries. Your Majesty, thank you for coming in and talking with us today. We're pleased to have you.

King Hussein: Thank you. It's a pleasure.

Mr. Brinkley: Now, you've just had a meeting with Deputy Prime Minister Hamadi of Iraq. What came out of the meeting? Can you tell us?

King Hussein: He visited Jordan from Iran and he is on his way to several Arab capitals. He gave us an impression of what is happening there and I was particularly struck by the news of the heavy civilian losses in Iraq and the destruction of the infrastructure there. He suggested that the losses could be in the thousands.

Mr. Brinkley: Now, Your Majesty, the President of the U.S., Secretary of State, the leadership of the U.S. Government were surprised and disappointed at your speech the other day supporting Iraq. Why did you do that?

King Hussein: I would like to seize this opportunity to point out something that's been repeated in the recent past by many American officials, in other words, their surprise that I didn't mention Kuwait or the invasion and annexation of Kuwait. I would like to make it very, very clear that I didn't do so, having done so zillions of times before and our position is very, very clear. On principle and in fact, we have always been against the occupation of territories by war and their annexation, regarding all the crises in this region and certainly, that applies to Kuwait and our position has not changed an iota in that particular regard.

What we were against and what I mentioned in my speech was my worry and concern as someone who has sought peace and a peaceful solution to this problem from the outset. My disappointment is great and that of the people of Jordan and the Arabs and many in the world over the fact that instead of peace, there is this terrible war with all the results that you could see in terms of the wounds it's going to open, the damage it's going to create and the ecological, economic - the turbulence, the instability that probably will grow from that point in circles that will become ever greater in the region. Ours was a commitment to peace, not to war and I was voicing concern for the Iraqi people in that speech and for their suffering, due to what we hear and what we receive in the way of information regarding their very, very heavy losses and the destruction of the infrastructure in Iraq, together with so many civilians.

Mr. Brinkley: Well, you oppose the occupation of Kuwait, but you still support the country that is occupying it. Americans find that a bit hard to understand. Could you explain that?

King Hussein: What do you mean by "support"? I would like to understand exactly what you meant by that.

Mr. Brinkley: No, I say you oppose it, oppose it.

King Hussein: I am supporting peace.

Mr. Brinkley: You oppose the occupation -

King Hussein: I have not - yes, I have opposed the occupation of Kuwait and I have sought a peaceful solution to the problem from the outset and I believe firmly that it was reachable within the first days of the conflict and I believe it was reachable throughout the months that have past.

And so I'm really concerned on a humanitarian level by all that this war is bringing about and nothing else. I am worried and I am Hashemite and I am an Arab and I belong to a people and I have a history and a people who

feel very, very strongly that there are problems in this region that could be resolved peacefully, as we have been committed to the cause of peace for so many years, not only the Iraqi-Kuwaiti problem, but the Palestinian problem, the Cypriot problem, every other problem in this region.

Mr. Brinkley: Does the rising hostility among the Arab - Islamic population in your country and others toward America, does that help bring you to this decision?

King Hussein: No, sir. I have always echoed my own feelings against a background of who I am and to which family belong and with a background of the history that this family has had throughout the Arab struggle over the centuries. And also, I am proud to say that I feel very close to the people of Jordan who freely express themselves and their hopes. And therefore, I do not see why my statement, my appeal for peace has been so misunderstood and misinterpreted.

Mr. Brinkley: Well, many have appealed for peace, but there isn't any at the moment and when the American military tells us that they expect a victory over Iraq in a relative short time, there will be great destruction left behind, where will your country be then? What will happen then? How do you see it?

King Hussein: I can't honestly tell you what will happen because I believe that the entire region is liable to face instability and there will be turmoil in a very large area. This is what I've been trying to avert from the outset and rest assured that we are committed to the freedom of man, his human dignity, his rights and life, be he Arab or otherwise, and for peace in this entire region. This is our commitment in the past and this is our commitment now and will always be.

Mr. Brinkley: Here in Washington, we hear from people in our government that the embargo on shipments of arms and other material to Iraq is being violated by you. Is that true?

King Hussein: This is totally untrue, sir. Unfortunately, we don't have the luxury of having so many PR firms or any PR firms to put our case across in Washington or in the Untied States, but we believe that the American people will sooner or later find the truth.

Mr. Brinkley: Well, the PR firms apparently have not been effective because it is being said here and I am happy to hear your response to it. Now, you also said in your speech that this is a war for American dominance in the Middle East and a war against all Arabs. You believe that?

King Hussein: I don't understand what point you are at now. I would like to have a clear view of what many - and obviously, Arabs have a basic right to be a party to forming what is now referred to as a "new world order", but what is it? I was bringing in my speech the other day the comparison between what is happening to the Iraqi people on the one hand - the war that unfortunately all our best efforts could not avert - and on the other hand, the state of curfew that exists and has existed since the beginning of hostilities in the Occupied Territories and the West Bank and in Gaza, where people are not permitted to leave their homes, even to achieve or bring about what they need for their very survival; a problem of a few months' duration and a problem of 24 years; the problem of Cyprus. There are so many problems of a different context in terms of their location, but of a similar nature in terms of their having been there for so long.

What is a new world order? How are we going to put it together? How are going to insure peace and stability and progress and the rightful generations to come of all peoples in this region to live in peace and to enjoy what is their right? We are very confused about what we feel is special attention paid to one problem and the lack of it on another, not that we have any doubt that the Kuwaiti problem, the Iraq-Kuwait problem had precedence since it came about in the way it did, but we need a linkage with something else.

We need to know exactly where we are going. We need a commitment to resolve other problems. We need a dialogue, a dialogue that could have been there between Iraq and the United States, Iraq and its neighbours and maybe war could have been averted; a dialogue with the rest of the world to enable us to see what this future is and obviously, as Arabs and a people in this region, we are very concerned.

Mr. Brinkley: Your Majesty, what are your thoughts about Iraq firing Scud missiles at a country that is not in the war? Israel.

King Hussein: I am not an apologist for any, but in this regard,I believe that this whole war and everything that it has brought about is a tragedy and I really hope and pray that the worst nightmares that one has had over so many months will not come true of the effect it's going to have on so many. Iraq probably feels that it is being struck by the United States and it's striking at a strategic ally. As far as these missiles are concerned, once again, they are fired into outer space. They are missiles that we cannot detect nor intercept.

But we have not been a party to this conflict and we wish to emphasize that time and again. We are speaking out of concern for everybody in this region and of the United States and for its image and for the image of the President of the United States at a time of such change in the world in which we live. Well, people can hopefully interpret our position accurately in time.

Mr. Brinkley: Your Majesty, one last question. We have a little time left. I'm reasonably certain that the President, the Secretary of State and the other leaders of the U.S. Government are listening to you now. What would you like to say to them?

King Hussein: I can only say one thing because it has hurt and hurt every Jordanian here, but our relationship was not based on material considerations. We are facing enormous difficulties, but we are not that cheap and

believe me, we are proud to be friends of friends who treat us with mutual respect and who seek to be our friends and we will be theirs always. And I hope that all of this will be behind us someday and I hope for peace in this region and for stability in this region and for happiness for all concerned.

Mr. Brinkley: Thank you. Thank you for coming in and talking with us today.

King Hussein: Thank you so much. Thank you.